

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 IO-13 EB-08 FAA-00 DOTE-00 TRSE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00 /086 W
-----120997 282005Z /73

O R 281940Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0184
INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION NATO
CINC EUR VAHINGEN
USELM LIVE OAK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 12442

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV EAIR BQG
SUBJECT: SOVIET FLIGHT IN BERLIN CORRIDOR

REFS: (A) BONN 12369 DTG 272014Z JUL 77
(B) USBER 1951 DTG 261730Z JUL 77
(C) USBER 1934 DTG 241842Z JUL 77
(D) BONN 12360 DTG 271634Z JUL 77

BEGIN SUMMARY. ALLIED BONN GROUP REPS HAVE BRIEFED THE
FRG REP ON THE SOVIET FLIGHT THROUGH THE CORRIDOR AND
HAVE SUGGESTED THAT THE FRG CONSIDER A BILATERAL DEMARCHE
TO THE SOVIETS. THE FRG IS AWAITING DETAILED INFORMATION
FROM THE BREMEN CENTER BEFORE DETERMINING WHETHER A
DEMARCHE IS WARRANTED. PARIS HAS REJECTED THE IDEA OF
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ALLIED CONFIRMATION TO THE PRESS OR PROVISION OF
ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE FLIGHT. END SUMMARY.

1. ALLIED REPS BRIEFED THE FRG REP (VON ARNIM) ON
DETAILS OF THE JULY 24 SOVIET FLIGHT THROUGH THE CENTER
CORRIDOR IN THE JULY 28 BONN GROUP MEETING, PROVIDING
INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REFTELS (B) AND (C). THEY

INFORMED VON ARNIM THAT THE ALLIES WERE EXPECTING TO MAKE A STATEMENT TO THE SOVIET CONTROLLER IN THE BASC AND PROVIDED A COPY OF THE AD REF TEXT WHICH HAS BEEN REFERRED TO CAPITALS FOR APPROVAL (REF A, PARA 1).

2. ALLIED REPS SUGGESTED THAT THE FRG ALSO CONSIDER A BILATERAL DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS, IN VIEW OF THE DEVIATION FROM THE FLIGHT PLAN FOR WHICH DIPLOMATIC CLEARANCE HAD BEEN GIVEN BY THE FRG (AND ALSO BY THE THREE ALLIES, UNDER PROCEDURE DESCRIBED IN REF D).

3. VON ARNIM REPLIED THAT, ON THE BASIS OF PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ABOUT THE FLIGHT WHICH THE UK REP HAD PROVIDED ON JULY 26, THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD ASKED THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM THE AIR CONTROL CENTER IN BREMEN AS TO DETAILS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE SOVIET PILOT AND THE BREMEN CENTER. HE DID NOT EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF AN FRG DEMARCHE TO THE SOVIETS BECAUSE OF THE CHANGE IN FLIGHT PLANS, BUT WOULD NEED TO AWAIT DETAILS FROM BREMEN.

4. GAUSSOT (FRANCE) STRESSED THE URGENCY OF THE INFORMATION, IN THAT IT COULD AFFECT THE ALLIED APPROACH IN THE BASC. EYERS (UK) REINFORCED THIS STATING THAT WHILE HE THOUGHT THE ALLIED DEMARCHE SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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BE MADE THERE WAS A REMOTE CHANCE THAT BREMEN HAD GIVEN THE PILOT INSTRUCTIONS WHICH MIGHT LEAVE THE ALLIES IN THE BASC OPEN TO RIDICULE.

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5. EYERS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE NEXT SOVIET FLIGHT -- PRESUMABLY THE SAME PLANE -- WAS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 31 AND THAT THE ALLIES THEREFORE HOPED TO MAKE THEIR STATEMENT IN BASC ON FRIDAY, JULY 29. US REP ADDED THAT, FOR MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS, ANY FRG APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS SHOULD ALSO BE MADE BEFORE THE NEXT FLIGHT.

6. US REP SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE A LEGAL OPINION ON THE QUESTION OF WHETHER AMENDMENTS TO FLIGHT PLANS WHICH HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE, AS IN THIS CASE, WERE LEGAL. IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO HAVE THE FOREIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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OFFICE VIEW ON WHETHER ANY SUCH AMENDMENT WOULD REQUIRE THREE-POWER CONCURRENCE, AS DID THE CLEARANCE FOR THE ORIGINAL FLIGHT PLAN.

7. VON ARNIM UNDERTOOK TO PASS ON THE INFORMATION FROM BREMEN AS SOON AS IT WAS AVAILABLE AND ALSO TO LOOK INTO THE QUESTIONS IN PARAGRAPH 6.

8. THE QUESTION OF A POSSIBLE PRESS STATEMENT (REF A, PARAS 2 AND 3) WAS NOT DISCUSSED, AS THE FRENCH REP (RICHARD) INFORMED US AND UK REPS PRIVATELY THAT PARIS HAD REJECTED THE IDEA OF MAKING ANY KIND OF STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT.
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